

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/462,502

Examiner

Catherine Simone

Applicant(s)

KONDO ET AL.

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment, filed 6/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5-17,19 and 20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 May 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior arts of record fail to teach or suggest the recited structure for a panel for an airbag. Independent claims 1, 12, 13 and 19, identify the uniquely distinct feature of an overlapping portion in which an outer peripheral edge of the cover body overlaps and is provided on the inner side of an opening edge of the main body "without a portion of the cover body being provided on an outer side of the opening edge of the main body." The closest prior arts of record, Shiraki (US 5,069,477) and Hiramitsu et al. (US 5,330,223) and Saito (JP 10-076544), each disclose a panel for an airbag including an overlapping portion, which either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the above limitation. Independent claims 14-17, identify the uniquely distinct feature of a "deformation restricting portion provided along each side of an outer peripheral edge of a cover body or at the periphery of the opening portion." The closest prior arts of record, Shiraki (US 5,069,477) and Hiramitsu et al. (US 5,330,223) and Saito (JP 10-076544), each disclose a panel for an airbag including a cover body made of a first synthetic resin and a main body made of a second synthetic resin, which either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the above limitations. Independent claim 20, identifies the uniquely distinct steps of "interrupting a portion between a first cavity portion for forming a first member and a second cavity portion for forming a second member by allowing the core to project and contact an opposite one of the male or female die" and "forming a communicating portion between the first and second cavity portions by retreating the core." The closest prior arts of record, Shiraki (US 5,069,477) and Hiramitsu et al. (US 5,330,223) and Saito

Art Unit: 1772

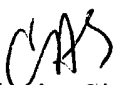
(JP 10-076544), each disclose an air bag panel including a cover body made of a first synthetic resin and a main body made of a second synthetic resin, which either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render obvious the above limitations.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine Simone whose telephone number is (571)272-1501. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Catherine Simone  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1772  
August 16, 2004

  
HAROLD PYON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
1772

8/16/04